

I.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1968



1968

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. D. J. Elkerton

Deputy Mayor: "

Alderman A. G. F. Marriott

Public Health Committee:

(Full Council)

Chairman Alderman T. Lambourne

Coun. R. W. Y. Abbs

" H. Adams

" S. C. Bain

Alderman H. E. Cornwall

" Mrs. D. J. Elkerton

Coun. A. R. Deaves.

" Mrs. E. D. Embleton

Coun. D. A. T. Foote.

Alderman A. G. F. Marriott

Coun. J. T. Murray.

" J. F. G. Piper.

" D. J. Pullen.

" J. T. Roberts.

" C. F. H. Smith.

" K. C. Vernon.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

P. Lavis, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H. (The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Winslow R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C. Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J. P. Hutchby, M.B. B.Ch., D.P.H. (to 30.9.68).

Chief Health Inspector:

R. Taylor, M.S.I.A.,

Deputy Health Inspector:

P. S. Hall, M.R.S.H.,

Secretary:

Telephone: Buckingham 2295

Miss J. E. Howlett.



## BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Castle House,  
West Street,  
Buckingham

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968.

### Vital Statistics

With a population the size of Buckingham too much significance should not be placed on figures for a single year. The trend is similar to the national one, though the birth rate increased again.

### Infectious Diseases

These diseases are largely confined to those affecting children, and with few exceptions, are mainly of nuisance value. Any infectious disease in a child not in good physical health is potentially dangerous, and some common infections cripple even the healthy. The introduction of a measles vaccine during the year means that another hazard might eventually be eliminated altogether. In future children will be offered this vaccine automatically, and more complete population cover will be achieved by computer recording which started on January 1st.

On 1st October the Health Service and Public Health Act 1968 came into operation. This revised the list of notifiable infectious diseases and tidied up much of the law relating to the Department's duties in relation to these and food poisoning. Some improvements in the method of enquiry into immigrants health has now been made possible, but the situation is still far from satisfactory in this respect.

Notified cases:-

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Measles	3	18
Scarlet Fever	6	3

### Environmental Health

One of the constant problems facing your Surveyor is that of refuse disposal. It is inevitable that complaints will arise from nuisance arising at one of the present tips. To carry out an efficient hygienic system will require capital outlay beyond the available resources of Buckingham. This service requires a more satisfactory tip with proper security, reliable collection and tracklaying vehicles, and an adequate number of men to cover emergencies as well as routine work. In addition conversion to paper sack collection for the whole borough is essential for hygienic reasons as well as



encourage recruitment to the labour force. The only means whereby this might be achieved seems to be a co-operative scheme with a neighbouring authority so that the workmen are available to each authority and vehicle purchase and maintenance is pooled.

### Health Education

One of the monthly themes emphasized this year was "Poisoning Hazards in the Home". With the kind co-operation of local doctors and of chemists the public were invited to hand in their old and superfluous drugs. A surprising amount of tablets were brought in, many of them lethal if misused. I hope that many parents were also reminded by these means to safeguard their children from these dangers.

A problem to be tackled with vigour in the coming months is that of food hygiene. Local standards are not near enough those that we should expect. I hope that retailers and customers will co-operate with the department to set a standard that others will emulate. It will be to our mutual advantage - from the health and business point of view.

I must thank the Council members for their continued interest and concern with public health matters, and for the time and energy they devote to the subject.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

P. Lavis



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# Vital Statistics

						<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,367,	5,367
Population ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,810	4,890
Number in Inhabited Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,701	1,800
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	224,414	238,398
Rate per £1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	12/5d	12/10d
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	£900	£910
<u>BIRTHS:</u>		M		F			
Legitimate ...	44		41		74		85
Illegitimate...	2		2		3		4
Birth rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)					17.1		19.5
" " " " " (Bucks)					18.1		17.9
" " " " " (England & Wales)					17.2		16.9
Still Births					1		1
<u>DEATHS:</u>					36		45
Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)					7.8		9.5
" " " " " (Bucks)					8.9		9.1
" " " " " (England & Wales)					11.2		11.9
<u>INFANT MORTALITY:</u>							
(Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)					Nil		11 (One death)
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	18.3		18



PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

					<u>1967</u>			<u>1968</u>		
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>T</u>
Cancer:	Stomach	...	...	...	1	0	1	2	0	2
	Lung, bronchus	...	...		1	0	1	0	1	1
	Other	...	...	...	3	2	5	3	3	6
Heart disease		...	...	...	4	6	10	9	5	14
Circulatory diseases		...	...		2	5	7	5	3	8
Bronchitis		...	...	...	3	0	3	4	0	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	1	3	4
Accident	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	0	1
All other causes	...	...	...		5	1	6	2	3	5
					<hr/>			<hr/>		
					20	16	36	27	18	45
					<hr/>			<hr/>		

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE SERVICE: Administered by Bucks County Council from Aylesbury Station, North Bucks Station at Buckingham and Bletchley.

HOSPITALS: Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Patients are treated at Buckingham, Aylesbury and Oxford. Certain Outpatient facilities are available in Buckingham.

LABORATORY: Walton Street, Oxford (Tel. 49231)

DISTRICT NURSING/MIDWIFERY: Area Superintendent:- Mrs. Riley (at Area Health Office, Bletchley) - Tel. 4701

HEALTH VISITORS: Flat 1, Verney Close, (Tel. 3395) Area Superintendent:- Mrs. D. L. Marett (At Area Health Office)

SOCIAL WORKERS: Medical, Welfare, Blind, Mental Health; Area Officer - Mr. P. K. Smith at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

HOME HELP SERVICE: Area Organiser - Mrs. E. N. Franklin  
Assistant Organiser - Mrs. V. A. Haughey (Tel. Bletchley 4701)

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC: Held twice monthly in the Congregational Chapel Hall.



CHILDREN DEPARTMENT: Area Child Care Officer: Miss J. M. Walker (Tel: Bletchley 4701)

INDUSTRIAL UNIT: Whaddon Way, Bletchley.

CONTRACEPTION ADVICE: Weekly Clinics are held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic Bletchley by the Family Planning Association (by appointment)

DENTAL CLINIC: Verney Close, treatment offered to children and expectant mothers.

HEALTH EDUCATION: Area Organiser - Miss B. Hayward at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE: Administered from Area Health Office. This includes arrangements for the examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act, ascertainment of handicapped and advising appropriate treatment, vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus and tuberculosis is carried out.

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## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### 1. WATER

No failures of supply occurred during the year. Breakdowns of machinery and pumping plant were repaired by the departments own staff, and in the appropriate cases the costs were recovered from the Council's insurers.

The main contracts for the new treatment works at Gawcott were completed at the end of the year.

The station is at present operating and supplying water to Gawcott and parts of Buckingham. The quality of the water is high and analysis show the presence of a small quantity of fluoride.

The whole of the Borough supply is derived from underground sources using submersible pumps in wells or boreholes.

Metered supplies to industry and commerce accounted for 22,824,000 gallons during the year.

Average consumption per head per day 57.36 gallons.

Total amount of water consumed in the year was 101,900,000 gallons, an increase on the previous year of 8.9 million gallons.

Peak daily consumption reached was 292,943 gallons.

40 bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water, all of which proved satisfactory.



## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER - BUCKINGHAM

Total Solid Residue dried at 105°C.....	864	parts per million
Chlorides as Chlorion.....	73	"
Nitrate Nitrogen.....	absent	
Nitrite Nitrogen.....	absent	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.....	---	
Albuminoid Nitrogen.....	---	
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hrs at 27°C.....	---	
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	345	"
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	53	"
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	292	"
Poisonous Metals.....	absent	
Reaction pH.....	7.2	
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub> .....	168	"
Sodium as Na.....	180	"
Potassium as K.....	4.5	"

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER - GAWCOTT

Total Solid Residue dried at 105°C.....	836	parts per million
Chlorides as Chlorion.....	104	" " "
Nitrate Nitrogen.....	absent	
Nitrite Nitrogen.....	absent	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.....	0.38	" " "
Albuminoid Nitrogen.....	0.07	" " "
Oxygen absorbed 4hrs. at 27°C.....	0.28	" " "
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	304	" " "
Non-carbonate hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	-	
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .....	322	" " "
Poisonous Metals.....	absent	
pH.....	7.2	

## 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewage works at Buckingham is producing a good effluent. Some difficulty is experienced preparing sludge for disposal and it is anticipated that mechanical means of de-watering this material will have to be sought in the near future.

No firm proposals have yet been made for improvements to the Gawcott works which are overloaded.

Samples of effluent are examined by the Great Ouse River Authority from time to time, and excellent liason is maintained at all times.

## 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL

Further discussions have been held with other authorities with a view to combined disposal arrangements in the future. Agreement has been reached with Aylesbury to use their facilities at Calvert when our present tipping space is exhausted.







#### 4. SWIMMING POOL

The Pool enjoyed good support during the summer season.

Season ticket sales produced	£183. 16. 6d.
Gate receipts produced	£407. 5. 1d.
Refreshment sales	£253. 11. 7d.
Schools contribution	£162. 0. 0d.

#### 5. FACTORIES

No matters calling for special attention have been reported.

38 outworkers were notified to the Council during 1968.

#### THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During the year there ~~was~~ one shop newly registered making a total of 74. 93 visits were made to registered premises, but no conditions were found which merited prosecution.

#### THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

The number of persons employed at registered premises was:-

Premises	Males 204	Females 307	Written Notices	Prosec- utions
	Number on Register	Inspections		
i. Non-Mechanical Factories Sections 1 - 6	7	19	Nil	Nil
ii. Mechanical Factories Section 7	31	21	Nil	Nil
iii. Other Premises Section 7	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	45	40	Nil	Nil



CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND

CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	698	-	21	1840	1812	Nil
Number inspected	698	-	21	1840	1812	Nil
Whole carcasses excluding Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	61	-	Nil	189	134	Nil
% of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.74	-	Nil	10.3	7.4	Nil
Tuberculosis. Some part or organ.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	15	Nil
% of inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	0.83	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	Nil	Nil	-	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	-	Nil	Nil	-	Nil



## 6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Mortuary situated in the Council Yard in the High Street is used by the two local authorities mainly in connection with fatal road casualties.

### D. HOUSING

45 private and 59 council houses were completed during the year.

### E. Report of Public Health Inspector

#### NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	51
Nuisances found as a result of inspection	...	...		5
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	5
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil

#### Visits to houses and premises under PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 and 1961 and FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Dairies	...	....	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses		....	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers Shops	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Foodshops	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Restaurants	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Licensed Premises		...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Schools	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
Knacker's Yards	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	257

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Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 71 and falling into the following categories:-

Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	16
Stalls	...	...	...	...	8
Canteens	...	...	...	...	7
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	33
Dairies	...	...	...	...	2

The number of premises registered under Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act is 17 and all such premises are regularly inspected.

All food premises have been supplied with extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

#### PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.	27
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	35

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:-

Number of complaints received	...	....	...	60
Number of premises treated for rats	....	...		40
Number of premises treated for mice	....	...		20
Estimated number of rats destroyed	....	...		92
Actual rats' bodies found	....	...		34
Visits for inspection and survey	....	...		50
Visits for baiting and exterminations	....	...		70

RENNIE TAYLOR,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
RECEIVED

TO THE DIRECTOR  
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
RE: [illegible]

[illegible text]

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